

# LESKERNICK DIARY

DATE: 24<sup>th</sup> May 1998

different

The first ~~dig~~ actual "digging". Site is ~~different~~ to anything I've seen before. Its structure is not immediately clear, but the longer I'm there the easier it is to think I can see things. Trouble is I start seeing things that are not there. Is every row of stones important/significant?? Is there too much emphasis on "Ritual"? The Stone circles, probably have some meaning (solar/moon alignments, meeting places), but does the way a "house" is orientated have a similar meaning. Could be just to keep the wind out.

Personnel Really enjoyed the day

Not as tired, I as thought, I might be. Probably hit me tomorrow. Nearly got lost leaving the site. Could do with a map.

DATE: 25<sup>th</sup> May 1998.

Working on Northern Stone circle. Deburping is very very tiring, why has no one invented a portable machine to do the job. I wish the tool store was ~~near~~ nearer the eastern excavations, it a long way between the two especially in the ~~evening~~ evening.

Personnel I am Knackered, happy, but Knackered. Taking off Turk is hard work. Dianne is good as Team leader. Rotates individual jobs well. Found way back to car okay.



# LESKERNICK DIARY

DATE: 26 May 1998

Not so tired tonight. Travelling is not a tiring as detouring. Trench looked good. Sharon, kindly, showed me how to travel. Leshernick Hill is a beautiful place, a bit like Scotland's southern uplands, but more open. Walking back with Liz, she said the area was a female landscape. I agree all the hills are soft and rounded apart from Brown Willey. Got to be a marvel in that.

I find it very relaxing, even when working, you can look up and around at the rolling hills. Like EVAL on North Uist. The weather has been good, if it was raining all the time, would I still be relaxed? ~~Discuss~~. Discuss!

DATE: 27<sup>th</sup> May 1998

Thought it would rain all day. The forecast on the TV (BBC1) was heavy rain on the Moors. Turned out fine, although a bit cold. Trench ready for photography. Not too tired. Would like to come here sometime when no-one is around, just to sit.

Diane showed me how to fill in a Context sheet. She a good teacher, very patience, and takes time to explain things.



# LESKERNICK DIARY

DATE: 28<sup>th</sup> May 1998 Thursday

Rained in the Afternoon after a bright morning. The cattle were a problem, with the Turf stack. One in particular would not move and kept coming at us.

Went to Camelford in the evening with Jayne, Justin, Cliff, Sue, Nick, Diane, Sharon, Gary, Ash and Jeremy.

Tinner's ale is very good.

Everyone looking forward to the day off.

DATE: 29<sup>th</sup> May 1998 Friday

Sharon gave me a lift to Bodmin, to pick up my bike. I was grateful for that. Journey back was good, there are some lovely views. Brown Willey is visible a lot of the way. Last 2 miles were not so good. It poured. Glad I was not digging today, as it seems to be raining all the time now.



# LESKERNICK DIARY

DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> May 1998

The morning TV weather forecast predicted Thunderstorms in SW. Day was actually bright, warm and very Windy. Trench 2 had photographs taken. Jeremy up a ladder in the wind, was an interesting experience. He has a great sense of humour.

Heard I might be painting stones with Chris Titley tomorrow. If so, will miss the "circle". If possible I'll try to do a bit more on it before I go. The first experience of anything, always sticks in your mind. As do the people. I wonder if Chris is in to Symmetry, that could be interesting.

DATE: 31<sup>st</sup> May. 1998

Ignore yesterday's entry, I'm back on "the circle". Saw the painted stones, they did stand out. The new colour scheme is yellow for entrances, red for "back wall" stones. It would be useful if Chris explained things (his work here, ideas), to all the group. Not everyone (probably only a few) would be really hostile.

Justin's birthday. Liked the fact that Sue, got him some cakes, for lunch.

Liz was tearful on the way back, I think she may have taken Mike's comments on stopping at the Co-op, more personally than they were intended.



# LESKERNICK DIARY

DATE: 1<sup>st</sup> June 1998

Not much to put in today. Stocked the Caravan site cat<sup>l</sup> for the first time. They are a bit weary but will eventually come up to you.

Chattering in bar in the evening, several people said that they don't like the walk in the morning from the Cars to the site. I suppose it's a bit long, but it does wake you up. The walk at night is more tiring.

DATE: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1998

First day I've felt cold on site. Probably had too thin a shirt on.

Chris Tilley's wrapped stones provide a good pointer to the tool store, especially in the mist. There was a very quiet feel about the walk in, because it was so misty. A bit like walking in the west of Scotland on a misty day. Moved to Hut 39, where I have my own little patch. Mike likes very straight sections, he has shown me how to get them, but I'll need to practice.



# LESKERNICK DIARY

DATE: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1998

The first day the TV Weather report has been correct. Got wet on the way in but helped rescue a lamb on the way back. Poor thing got caught between two rocks. Mark and I <sup>to the rescue.</sup> It interesting to see peoples reactions to heavy rain. Most look sad and dejected. Others, like Fay, who have done a lot of sailing, just sit it out patiently. My "foul weather" gear proved very effective.

DATE: 4<sup>th</sup> June 1998

Finished tidying up the wall section in Hut 39 and have moved to one of the quadrants inside the house. Mike thinks it will be more interesting. Encountered "Bioturbation" - 2 vole holes. Simon and Ian found three bits of pot.

The day was hot but not too hot to work, how can people work in very hot climates? Everyone felt better/happier in the Sunshine.

Excavating is "fun", it feels like real Archaeology, not just reading books. Its like being in a laboratory; safety is just as important and rushing only brings mistakes.



# LESKERNICK DIARY

DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> June 1998.

The heavy rain has spoilt my field note book. I do not see why something that is a record of work done should have to be written in the "rain". Better to use a small note pad in the field and then transfer to the larger book. If my laboratory notebook had been as dirty as my field note book, I would have been "Hung, drawn and quartered". Well may be not.

We finished early today because of the rain. This makes sense, it was hard to see through my glasses and it was impossible to distinguish layers. Only slightly wet feet.

DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> June 1998

Noticed that since I have been working in House 39. I do not look at the horizon as much, as when I was in the "Circle". Probably because the house is more enclosed, with the walls etc. Whereas the "Circle" is on the "open" ~~place~~ plane.



# LESKERNICK DIARY

DATE: 8<sup>th</sup> June 1998

WET, WET, WET - Just like the Scottish pop group.  
It was sensible to stop when we did, travelling in mud is not much fun.

Jeemy moved to his own caravan. He did not like Chris smoking his pipe. Just a difference of "taste", not animosity. Also I think he prefers being on his own. In many ways I can agree with that.

DATE: 9<sup>th</sup> June 1998

Today really passed quickly. It rained a bit, but not like yesterday. Can not understand, why trampoline is not put over trenches. Surely better than bailing out?

The time is passing, hard to believe I only have 5 more days here. Leyton seems a million miles away.



# LESKERNICK DIARY

DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> June 1998

Enjoyed today - not much else to say.

Chris and I talked about his trip to Roughton. Could be useful for third year project. Will speak to Sue.

Answered Patrick's questions; many seemed to overlap. One question from an Archaeologist asked "how REAL do you feel? Odd very odd.

DATE: 11<sup>th</sup> June 1998

Was cold today, needed an extra layer.

Meal went well; Chris, Elizabeth, Nick, Jeremy, Diane, Sharon all seemed to enjoy it. Mark did not turn-up.

Disappointed Italy only drew 2-2 with Chile.

Is Jeremy keeps asking me for the recipe.

To Be Continued